

U.S. Application No.: 09/979,564
AMENDMENT D AND REQUEST FOR A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW

Attorney Docket: 3926.033

REMARKS

Review and reconsideration of the Office Action of February 9, 2005, is respectfully requested in view of the above amendment and the following remarks.

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 12 and 19 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim.

Applicants respectfully amended claims 11 and 17 by including the limitations of the claims 12 and 19, respectively.

Applicants note that Claims 13-16 now depend from an allowable claim 11 and Claims 18 and 20 now depend from an allowable claim 17.

Office Action

Turning now to the Office Action in greater detail, the paragraphing of the Examiner is adopted.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. 102

The Examiner rejects claims 11, 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ammar et al.

Claims 11, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 4,359,742 to Smith.

The position of the Examiner can be found on page 2 and 3 of the Office Action.

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Applicants respectfully amended claims 11 and 17 by including the limitations of the claims 12 and 19 thereby putting claims 11 and 17 in condition for allowance.

Claim 18 depends from allowable claim 17.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection - 35 USC §103

Claims 16 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over any one of Ammar or Smith in view of either Masak et al. or Pierrot (both previously of record).

The position of the Examiner can be found on page 3 and 4 of the Office Action.

Applicants note that, as a result of amending claim 11 by including the limitations of claim 12, overcoming the §102 rejection, claim 16 should also be allowable. Further, as a result of amending claim 17 by including the limitations of claim 19, overcoming the §102 rejection, claim 20 should also be allowable.

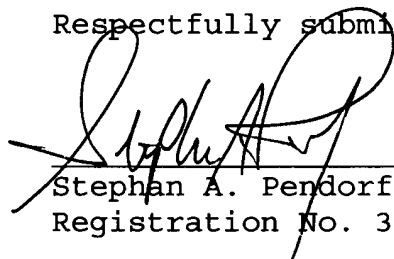
Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of claim 16 and 20 is respectfully requested.

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If the Examiner does not consider that the present application is now in condition for allowance, Applicant hereby requests the courtesy of a telephone interview at the Examiner's convenience, in which any remaining impediments to issuance may be addressed.

Respectfully submitted,


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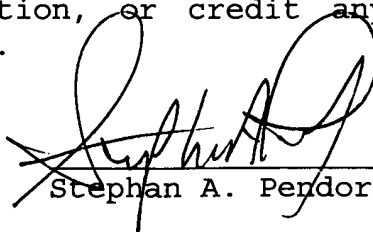
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Date: May 6, 2005

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING AND AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE

I hereby certify that the foregoing AMENDMENT D AND REQUEST FOR A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW for U.S. Application No. 09/979,564 filed November 14, 2001, were deposited in first class U.S. mail, postage prepaid, **Mail Stop:** Amendments, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on **May 6, 2005.**

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application, except for the issue fee, without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-0877.


Stephan A. Pendorf